



Labor and Workforce Development

Home > \$162K in Program Design Grants for Chronic Unemployment

CHARLIE BAKER
GOVERNOR

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KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Baker-Polito Administration Awards Initial \$162,666 In Program Design Grants to Address Chronic Unemployment

Media Contact

Charles Pearce (617) 626-7121
Charles.Pearce@massmai.state.ma.us

Boston, MA – The Baker-Polito Administration today awarded \$162,666 in Program Design Grant awards to eight partnerships funded through the **Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and the Health Care Workforce Transformation Fund**.

The Program Design Grants are designed to support the recommendations of Governor Baker's Economic Opportunity Task Force to provide support services, training, and job placement programs that meet the needs of members of populations facing chronic unemployment, including African Americans/Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, persons with disabilities, and Gulf War Era II Veterans.

"We are committed to ensuring citizens across the Commonwealth have access to greater economic opportunity," said **Governor Charlie Baker**. "These grants will support efforts helping those facing chronic unemployment get the training and support they need to join or re-enter the workforce." "We look forward to partnering with the grantees to fully implement the goals of the Economic Opportunity Task Force. As the economy in Massachusetts grows, helping more individuals develop the training and skills needed to succeed and find gainful employment remains a top priority for our administration," added **Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**.

These Program Design grants are being awarded to community partnerships of businesses, community-based organizations and training organizations. Over a three-month period, the partnerships will develop occupationally-specific training and placement programs designed to support individuals with limited attachment to the labor force in making a successful transition to employment in occupations in demand by local employers. These grants will be followed by Program Implementation grants of up to 2 years for a total of \$1,637,334.

According to **Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Ronald L. Walker, II**, "For the chronically unemployed, the prospect of a good paying job can seem far off. By utilizing these grants we will be able to provide the training necessary for many of these people to start a career. That is good for the person who gets the job and good for our state's employers who are in need of workers trained in these skills."

The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF) supports regional partnerships between businesses, community based organizations, labor organizations, educational institutions and workforce development organizations to prepare Massachusetts residents for occupations that are in demand by businesses in the region. The Health Care Workforce Transformation Fund supports training and education activities that help health care employers address workforce challenges related to their efforts to meet the cost containment and quality improvement goals of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012. Commonwealth Corporation administers both funds under the leadership of Secretary Walker.

The following is a complete list of the grant recipients awarded by the WCTF and the HCWTF grants today (listed by community).

Andover

American Training, Inc./dba LARE Institute was awarded \$13,350.05. The partnership proposes to provide training to Hispanics/Latinos to prepare them for positions as Certified Medical Assistants.

Boston

Center for Community Health Education Research and Services was awarded \$24,476.47. The partnership proposes to provide training to African Americans/Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, and residents of the BHA to prepare them for Home Health Aide positions.

Jewish Vocational Service was awarded \$25,000.00. The partnership proposes to provide training to African Americans/Blacks and Hispanics/Latinos to prepare them for positions as Home Health Aides or Certified Nursing Assistants

Fall River

Bristol Workforce Investment Board was awarded \$19,503.16. The partnership proposes to provide training to

Hispanics/Latinos to prepare them for stitchers or sewing machine operator positions.

Lawrence

Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board was awarded \$25,000.00. The partnership proposes to provide training to Hispanic/Latino ex-offenders to prepare them for jobs as construction laborers.

Malden

Triangle, Inc. was awarded \$5,340.50. The partnership proposes to provide training to adults with disabilities to prepare them for positions as Home Health Aides or Certified Nursing Assistants.

Springfield

Gandara Center, Inc. was awarded \$24,995.50. The partnership proposes to provide training to individuals living in recovery from Substance Abuse Disorders to prepare them for Recovery Coach positions.

Worcester

Worcester Community Action Council, Inc. was awarded \$25,000.00. The partnership proposes to provide training to African Americans/Black and Latina women to prepare them for positions as Certified Nursing Assistants.

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